United Nations

A/73/551

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 November 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 111

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Nadia Alexandra **Kalb** (Austria)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" was included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly pursuant to Assembly resolution 72/123 of 7 December 2017.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.

3. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 1st to 5th, 33rd and 35th meetings, from 3 to 5 October and on 5 and 13 November 2018. The views of the representatives who spoke during the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.[1]

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/73/125).

5. At its 1st meeting, on 3 October, the Committee established a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, as well as discussions on the item included in its agenda by General Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. The Working Group was open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Working Group held three meetings, as well as informal consultations, on 16 and 19 October and on 1 November.

[1] A/C.6/73/SR.1, A/C.6/73/SR.2, A/C.6/73/SR.3, A/C.6/73/SR.4, A/C.6/73/SR.5, A/C.6/73/SR.33 and A/C.6/73/SR.35.

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6. At its 33rd meeting, on 5 November, the Committee heard and took note of the oral report by the Chair of the Working Group on the work of the Working Group and on the results of the informal consultations held during the current session.

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.6/73/L.17

7. At the 35th meeting, on 13 November, the representative of Canada, on behalf of the Bureau, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" (A/C.6/73/L.17).

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/73/L.17 without a vote (see para. 9).

III. Recommendation of the Sixth Committee

9. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming, in all its aspects, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted on 8 September 2006,[1] which enhances the overall framework for the efforts of the international community to effectively counter the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and recalling the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth biennial reviews of the Strategy, on 4 and 5 September 2008, 8 September 2010, 28 and 29 June 2012, 12 and 13 June 2014, 30 June and 1 July 2016, and 26 and 27 June 2018, respectively, and the debates that were held on those occasions,[2]

Recalling its resolutions 62/272 of 5 September 2008, 64/297 of 8 September 2010, 66/282 of 29 June 2012, 68/276 of 13 June 2014, 70/291 of 1 July 2016 and 72/284 of 26 June 2018,

Recalling also its resolution 66/10 of 18 November 2011,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,[3]

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[4]

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5] and reaffirming, in particular, the section on terrorism,

Recalling further the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994, and the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996,

Recalling all General Assembly resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism and Security Council resolutions on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,

Convinced of the importance of the consideration of measures to eliminate international terrorism by the General Assembly as the universal organ having competence to do so,

Deeply disturbed by the persistence of terrorist acts, which have been carried out worldwide,

Reaffirming its strong condemnation of the heinous acts of terrorism that have caused enormous loss of human life, destruction and damage, including those which

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[1] Resolution 60/288.

[2] See A/62/PV.117, A/62/PV.118, A/62/PV.119, A/62/PV.120, A/64/PV.116, A/64/PV.117, A/66/PV.118, A/66/PV.119, A/66/PV.120, A/68/PV.94, A/68/PV.95, A/68/PV.96, A/68/PV.97, A/70/PV.108, A/70/PV.109, A/70/PV.110, A/72/PV.101, A/72/PV.102 and A/72/PV.103.

[3] Resolution 50/6.

[4] Resolution 55/2.

[5] Resolution 60/1.

prompted the adoption of General Assembly resolution 56/1 of 12 September 2001, as well as Security Council resolutions 1368 (2001) of 12 September 2001, 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001 and 1377 (2001) of 12 November 2001, and those that have occurred since,

Reaffirming also its strong condemnation of the atrocious and deliberate attacks that have occurred against United Nations offices in various parts of the world,

Affirming that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with all their obligations under international law and must adopt such measures in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

Stressing the need to strengthen further international cooperation among States and among international organizations and agencies, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements and the United Nations in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, international law and the relevant international conventions,

Noting the role of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism in monitoring the implementation of that resolution, including the taking of the necessary financial, legal and technical measures by States and the ratification or acceptance of the relevant international conventions and protocols,

Mindful of the need to enhance the role of the United Nations and the relevant specialized agencies in combating international terrorism and of the proposals of the Secretary-General to enhance the role of the Organization in this respect,

Recalling its resolution 71/291 of 15 June 2017, by which it decided to establish the Office of Counter-Terrorism,

Noting the United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, held in New York on 28 and 29 June 2018, the participants of which included representatives of Member States, regional organizations, civil society organizations and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, further noting the intention of the Secretary-General to convene another such conference, and encouraging the Secretary-General to consult Member States in this regard,

Mindful of the essential need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation aimed at enhancing the national capacity of States to prevent and effectively suppress international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Reiterating its call upon States to review urgently the scope of the existing international legal provisions on the prevention, repression and elimination of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, with the aim of ensuring that there is a comprehensive legal framework covering all aspects of the matter,

Emphasizing that tolerance and dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding are among the most important elements in promoting cooperation and success in combating terrorism, and welcoming the various initiatives to this end,

Reaffirming that no terrorist act can be justified in any circumstances,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) of 14 September 2005, and bearing in mind that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

Noting recent developments and initiatives at the international, regional and subregional levels to prevent and suppress international terrorism,

Noting also regional and subregional efforts to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, including through the elaboration of and adherence to regional conventions,

Recalling its decision in resolutions 54/110 of 9 December 1999, 55/158 of 12 December 2000, 56/88 of 12 December 2001, 57/27 of 19 November 2002, 58/81 of 9 December 2003, 59/46 of 2 December 2004, 60/43 of 8 December 2005, 61/40 of 4 December 2006, 62/71 of 6 December 2007, 63/129 of 11 December 2008, 64/118 of 16 December 2009, 65/34 of 6 December 2010, 66/105 of 9 December 2011 and 67/99 of 14 December 2012 that the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 should address, and keep on its agenda, the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Recalling also that, in the Final Document of the Seventeenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, adopted on Margarita Island, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 18 September 2016, the Heads of State or Government reiterated the collective position of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on combating international terrorism and reaffirmed its previous initiative calling for an international summit conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as other relevant initiatives,

Noting the importance of continuing to strive towards achieving a world free of terrorism,

Bearing in mind its resolutions 57/219 of 18 December 2002, 58/187 of 22 December 2003, 59/191 of 20 December 2004, 60/158 of 16 December 2005, 61/171 of 19 December 2006, 62/159 of 18 December 2007, 63/185 of 18 December 2008, 64/168 of 18 December 2009, 65/221 of 21 December 2010, 66/171 of 19 December 2011, 68/178 of 18 December 2013, 70/148 of 17 December 2015 and 72/180 of 19 December 2017,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General[6] and the oral report of the Chair of the Working Group of the Sixth Committee on its work during the seventy-third session,[7]

1. *Strongly condemns* all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed;

2. *Calls upon* all Member States, the United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,[1] as well as the resolutions relating to the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth biennial reviews of the Strategy,[8] in all its aspects at the international, regional, subregional and national levels without delay, including by mobilizing resources and expertise;

3. *Recalls* the pivotal role of the General Assembly in following up the implementation and the updating of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism

[6] A/73/125.

[7] See A/C.6/73/SR.33.

[8] Resolutions 62/272, 64/297, 66/282, 68/276, 70/291 and 72/284.

Strategy, looks forward to the seventh biennial review, in 2020, and in this regard recalls its invitation to the Secretary-General to contribute to the future deliberations of the Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General when doing so to provide information on relevant activities within the Secretariat to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system;

4. *Reiterates* that criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstances unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other nature that may be invoked to justify them;

5. *Reiterates its call upon* all States to adopt further measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant provisions of international law, including international standards of human rights, to prevent terrorism and to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism and, to that end, to consider, in particular, the implementation of the measures set out in paragraphs 3 (a) to (f) of General Assembly resolution 51/210;

6. *Also reiterates its call upon* all States, with the aim of enhancing the efficient implementation of relevant legal instruments, to intensify, as and where appropriate, the exchange of information on facts related to terrorism and, in so doing, to avoid the dissemination of inaccurate or unverified information;

7. *Reiterates its call upon* States to refrain from financing, encouraging, providing training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities;

8. *Expresses concern* at the increase in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking with demands for ransom and/or political concessions by terrorist groups, and expresses the need to address this issue;

9. *Expresses grave concern* over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, namely, individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or providing or receiving terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict, emphasizes the need for States to address this issue, including through the implementation of their international obligations, and underlines the importance of United Nations capacity-building and facilitation of capacity-building in accordance with existing mandates to assist States, including those in the most affected regions, upon their request;

10. *Emphasizes* the need for States to cooperate resolutely against international terrorism by taking speedy and effective measures to eliminate this scourge, and in this regard calls upon all States, in accordance with their obligations under applicable international law and the Charter, to deny safe haven and bring to justice or, where appropriate, extradite, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, the perpetrators of terrorist acts or any person who supports, facilitates or participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning or preparation of terrorist acts;

11. *Urges* States to ensure that their nationals or other persons and entities within their territory that wilfully provide or collect funds for the benefit of persons or entities who commit, or attempt to commit, facilitate or participate in the commission of terrorist acts are punished by penalties consistent with the grave nature of such acts;

12. *Reminds* States of their obligations under relevant international conventions and protocols, and Security Council resolutions, including Council resolution 1373 (2001), to ensure that perpetrators of terrorist acts are brought to

justice, and recalls the General Assembly resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism;

13. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation as well as actions by States to combat terrorism should be conducted in conformity with the principles of the Charter, international law and relevant international conventions;

14. *Recalls* the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism,[9] the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material,[10] the Protocol of 2005 to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation[11] and the Protocol of 2005 to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf,[12] and urges all States to consider, as a matter of priority, becoming parties to these instruments;

15. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider, as a matter of priority and in accordance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and Council resolution 1566 (2004) of 8 October 2004, becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols as referred to in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 51/210, as well as the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings,[13] the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism,[14] the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and calls upon all States to enact, as appropriate, the national legislation necessary to implement the provisions of those conventions and protocols, to ensure that the jurisdiction of their courts enables them to bring to trial the perpetrators of terrorist acts and to cooperate with and provide support and assistance to other States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to that end;

16. *Urges* States to cooperate with the Secretary-General and with one another, as well as with interested intergovernmental organizations, with a view to ensuring, where appropriate within existing mandates, that technical and other expert advice is provided to those States requiring and requesting assistance in becoming parties to and implementing the conventions and protocols referred to in paragraph 15 above;

17. *Notes with appreciation and satisfaction* that, consistent with the call contained in paragraphs 14 and 15 of General Assembly resolution 72/123 of 7 December 2017, a number of States became parties to the relevant conventions and protocols referred to therein, thereby realizing the objective of wider acceptance and implementation of those conventions;

18. *Reaffirms* the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 49/60, and the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate

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[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2445, No. 44004.

[10] Adopted on 8 July 2005 by the Conference to Consider and Adopt Proposed Amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (International Atomic Energy Agency, document GOV/INF/2005/10-GC(49)/INF/6, attachment).

[11] Adopted on 14 October 2005 by the Diplomatic Conference on the Revision of the SUA Treaties (International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.15/21).

[12] Adopted on 14 October 2005 by the Diplomatic Conference on the Revision of the SUA Treaties (International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.15/22).

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2149, No. 37517.

[14] Ibid., vol. 2178, No. 38349.

International Terrorism, contained in the annex to Assembly resolution 51/210, and calls upon all States to implement them;

19. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate to prevent and suppress terrorist acts;

20. *Urges* all States and the Secretary-General, in their efforts to prevent international terrorism, to make the best use of the existing institutions of the United Nations;

21. *Notes* that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre is performing its duties within the Office of Counter-Terrorism and that the Centre is supporting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and encourages all Member States to collaborate with the Centre and to contribute to the implementation of its activities within the Office;

22. *Requests* the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna to continue its efforts to enhance, through its mandate, the capabilities of the United Nations in the prevention of terrorism, and recognizes, in the context of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), its role in assisting States in becoming parties to and implementing the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, including the most recent among them, and in strengthening international cooperation mechanisms in criminal matters related to terrorism, including through national capacity-building;

23. *Invites* regional intergovernmental organizations to submit to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted at the regional level to eliminate international terrorism, as well as on intergovernmental meetings held by those organizations;

24. *Decides* to recommend that the Sixth Committee, at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the item included in its agenda by Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations;

25. *Recognizes* the valuable dialogue and efforts of Member States towards resolving any outstanding issues, and encourages all Member States to redouble their efforts during the intersessional period;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism".